

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2769

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO
SUBJECT: OMEGA & LORAN C MAKE HEADLINES AGAIN

REFS: (A) OSLO 2022 (B) OSLO 2134 (C) 76 OSLO 0073

SUMMARY: LEFTIST PRESS CRITICISM OF THE STORTING'S HANDLING OF A REPORT ON THE LORAN C AND OMEGA NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS HAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT THIS U.S.-NORWEGIAN COOPERATIVE EFFORT INTO THE HEADLINES. THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE IS THE BREACH OF PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY WHICH BROUGHT THE MATTER INTO THE LEFTIST PRESS. THE PRACTICAL RESULT OF THE FLAP, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO BE TO REINFORCE THE GON'S CAUTION ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE TWO SYSTEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ITS UNCANNY WAS THE LORAN C QUESTION SURFACED AGAIN LAST WEEK. THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SV) NEWSPAPER "NY TID" PUBLISHED ON JUNE 8 EXCERPTS AND MATERIALS FROM A SECRET STORTING MEETING THE DAY BEFORE DEALING WITH THE LORAN C AND OMEGA NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS. THE STORTING HAD MET TO
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REVIEW AND TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY GROUP, HEADED BY ANDREAS SCHEI ON THE ACCUSATIONS BY NORWEGIAN DEFENSE OFFICIAL, CAPTAIN HELLEBUST (76 OSLO 0073), PUBLISHED IN 1975 CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF THE LORAN C MATTER. THE SCHEI REPORT EXONERATED THE GOVERNMENT FROM ANY MISHANDLING OF THE LORAN C/OMEGA ARRANGEMENTS. HELLEBUST'S PAPER CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR

CONSPIRING WITH THE U.S. IN HANDLING THE LORAN C ISSUE, RELATED THE SYSTEMS TO U.S. POLARIS TARGETING AND CLAIMED THIS VIOLATED NORWAY'S POLICY AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATIONING IN NORWAY DURING PEACETIME.

2. THE "NYTID" ARTICLE ATTACKED THE STORTING FOR APPROVING THE SCHEI REPORT (REPORTEDLY WITH ONLY 25 OPPOSING VOTES) AS WELL AS FOR CONDUCTING ITS MEETING IN SECRET AND REFUSING TO MAKE THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. THE ARTICLE REVEALED NOTHING THAT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE HELLEBUST OR OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THE LORAN C QUESTION. IT CHASTIZED NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS, THE USG AND THE EMBASSY FOR SURREPTITIOUSLY INVOLVING NORWAY IN AN ACTIVITY WHICH VIOLATES THE COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR POLICY.

3. THE LEFTIST PAPER'S REVELATIONS CREATED A STIR IN THE STORTING BECAUSE THE ARTICLE WAS BASED UPON INFORMATION LEAKED FROM A SECRET STORTING MEETING. NORWEGIAN LAW PROVIDES THAT A LEGISLATOR FOUND GUILTY OF SUCH AN ACT CAN BE IMPEACHED, AND THE NEWSPAPER PRINTING SUCH MATERIAL CAN BE EXPELLED FROM THE PARLIAMENT. STORTING LEADERS LAST WEEK WERE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS, AND "NY TID" WAS DENIED ENTRY TO THE PRESS FACILITIES IN THE STORTINGM

4. COMMENT:
IF STORTING LEADERS FIND A CLEAR CASE AGAINST A REPRESENTATIVE FOR RELEASING THE INFORMATION TO THE PRESS, AN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDING MAY BE INITIATED. IF NO
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CLEAR CASE CAN BE MADE THE MATTER WILL PROBABLY BE DROPPED. AT THIS JUNCTURE IT APPEARS A CLEAR CASE WILL NOT BE MADE. THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST FROM THE U.S. STANDPOINT SINCE THE LESS PUBLICITY ON LORAN C AND RELATED MATTERS THE BETTER; IN AN ISSUE-STARVED ELECTION YEAR ANY POTENTIAL ISSUE, PARTICULARLY ONE THAT HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GET SENSATIONAL PRESS PLAY.

5. ON THE PLUS SIDE AT THIS STAGE IS THE FACT THAT THE STORTING DID APPROVE THE COMMITTEE REPORT THAT CLEARED THE GOVERNMENT OF CHARGES OF MISHANDLING THE CASE. NONETHELESS, THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT ARTICLE MAY BE TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE LORAN C ISSUE AND, THEREFORE, PROBABLY HESITANT IN PROCEEDING WITH ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS RELATED TO THE SYSTEM, SUCH AS THE PROPOSED CLARINET PILGRIM PROJECT, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH GON OFFICIALS SHORTLY WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING THEIR EVALUATION OF

THE IMPACT ON LORAN C COOPERATION.
ANDERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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